UNITED NATIONS

EP

Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/GCSS.VI/7
17 May 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixth special session
Malmö, Sweden, 29-31 May 2000
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21 AND THE PROGRAMME FOR THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Proposed process of preparation for the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Report of the Executive Director

1. In accordance with the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme (Governing Council decision 19/1, annex), UNEP's role is that of the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. This role was affirmed by the General Assembly in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted at its nineteenth special session on the occasion of the five-year review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

2. The programme of work of UNEP is developed in conformity with the Nairobi Declaration and the concentration areas identified in its mandate, and fully incorporates the activities envisaged in Agenda 21. UNEP activities have multifaceted programme components to address sectoral and cross-sectoral issues, contributing to the implementation of various chapters of Agenda 21 simultaneously. Highlights of the recent activities of UNEP will be found in the report of the Executive Director on activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GCSS.VI/6).

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3. In connection with the preparation for the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/218, invited the Governing Council of UNEP to consider how the activities of UNEP were contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and to submit its views to the General Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

4. The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eighth session, stressed the importance of early and effective preparations for the 2002 review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the Rio Conference, to be carried out at the local, national, regional and international levels by Governments and the United Nations system, so as to ensure high-quality inputs to the review process. The Commission invited the United Nations Secretariat, working in close cooperation with UNEP, inter alia, to support preparatory activities, in particular at the national and regional levels, in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing way. The Commission invited the Governing Council of UNEP, in line with the Nairobi Declaration, to promote the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the United Nations system and to provide its views to the Commission at its tenth session as an important input to the preparatory process on the environmental aspects of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the Rio Conference. The Commission invited the General Assembly to decide at its fifty-fifth session on the agenda, possible main themes, timing and venue of the 2002 event, the number of intergovernmental preparatory meetings and other organizational and procedural matters related to the 2002 review, taking into account the views of the Commission, the Governing Council of UNEP and the Economic and Social Council.

5. In view of the above, the Governing Council may wish to consider means by which the Governing Council will submit to the General Assembly its views on how the activities of UNEP are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, as well as its views on the preparatory process for the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The following process is suggested for consideration:

(a) The Governing Council at the present session requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives to review, on its behalf, how the activities of UNEP are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. For this purpose, the Executive Director is to prepare a report for consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The outcome of the review is a report incorporating views of Governments conveyed through the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The report should be ready in time to become part of the documentation for the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

(b) The Governing Council at the present session authorizes the Executive Director to submit the above-mentioned report through the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

(c) The Governing Council at the present session also requests the Executive Director to take action to ensure UNEP's active contribution to the preparatory process for the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(d) The Governing Council at its twenty-first session should consider the contribution of UNEP to the preparatory process for the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Executive Director will submit a report on the subject to the Council. On the basis of this report and its consideration of the issue, the Governing Council may wish to take a decision concerning the active involvement and contribution of UNEP to the preparatory process for the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

UNITED
NATIONS

EP

Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment
Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/GCSS.VI/8
10 May 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixth special session
Malmö, Sweden, 29-31 May 2000
Item 4, 5 and 6 of the provisional agenda*

GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Major environmental challenges in the new century
Private sector and environment – preparing for the twenty-first century
Civil society – responsibility and role vis-à-vis environment in the globalized world

Discussion papers presented by the Executive Director

Summary

The present document contains background papers intended to stimulate discussions and to identify questions of concern to Governments which will be addressed by ministers and heads of delegation during the Forum. The document relates to the following items on the provisional agenda: 4 (Major environmental challenges in the new century), 5 (Private sector and the environment – preparing for the twenty-fist century), and 6 (Civil society -- responsibility and role vis-à-vis the environment in the globalized world). The document has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/GCSS.VI/1.

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INTRODUCTION

The beginning of a new century affords a significant opportunity to reflect on the future path of global environmental policy. In this new century, dominated by new technology and new opportunities, it is also worth reflecting that the future is increasingly a matter of human choice.

The recognition of the global nature of environmental challenges in Stockholm, in 1972, and the coupling of environmental issues to those of development in Rio de Janeiro twenty years later, has led to significant progress to reverse environmental degradation. However, the facts and figures of UNEP's *Global Environment Outlook 2000* state clearly that the challenges of sustainability still overwhelm the adequacy of our responses.

The message as highlighted in the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan's Report: *"We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century"* is unambiguous: we must do more and we must do it better.

Neither the quantity or quality of the progress achieved to date allows us to be complacent about environmental issues. Emphasis should be given to stimulating practical answers to the environmental challenges before us. This includes the overriding objective to reduce poverty.

This view is shared by a vast majority of people. For example, two thirds of the 57,000 adults from sixty countries who responded to the United Nations Millenium Survey said their governments had not done enough to protect the environment.

How can we do better? Is the slow progress due to lack of implementing these instruments? Are we at a turning point of socio-economic development that requires foresight and fundamental changes, as our ancestors required in the early days of industrialization?

Are the environmental instruments developed during the last decade sufficient to build our common future to achieve a sustainable development in all parts of the world?

These questions are being posed in the context of a world that has changed enormously since the early days of global environmental policy, and is likely to continue to do so with undiminished pace.

This transformation process is often described by catchwords such as "globalization" and "the post-industrial era" or "the information and knowledge age". Whatever the phrase, this transformation may ultimately be as consequential as the two previous waves in human socio-economic development: from hunter-gatherer to agricultural societies, and then from the agricultural to industrial societies.

We should also remember that globalization is not a new phenomenon but one that has been occurring since homo sapiens populated the

continents. The process gathered momentum during the 15th century with the "voyages of discovery" and the rise of international trade in products such as silk spices and cotton.

Today's connotation of globalization is still trade-driven, though soon we may only speak of e-commerce. In the most developed economies, services are increasingly displacing manufacturing as a source of wealth, while information and human intelligence embodied within increasingly smart machines have become driving market forces as mental labour replaces physical labour.

New and inexpensive technology makes it easier to move information across national borders. Rapid communications by radio, television, fax and e-mail combined with the steadily declining cost of long-distance transportation erodes the boundaries of established cultural communities. At its best, this process has the potential to build understanding, tolerance and mutual respect across cultures.

Consider also that foreign exchange flows have soared from US$15 billion a day in 1973 to more than US$ 1.5 trillion a day in 1999. Investments into the world's equity markets now amount to about US$ 19 trillion. In many countries, official working hours have been reduced, international tourism has soared, and on average people are living longer. At the same time, the social divide within and among countries continues to increase.

We are now at the threshold of the first truly global revolution – one that is fundamentally different from the Industrial Revolution that began two centuries ago and gradually spread throughout the globe, thus allowing people and societies more time to adjust. The Information Revolution, by contrast, is spreading simultaneously on all continents - albeit with differing intensities and pace, adding to social tensions and creating a "digital divide". In so doing, this rapid transition is raising questions about the desirability of this path among those who are finding it difficult to adjust once the globalization process conflicts with their cultural and spiritual values.

How can environmental values help bridge the cultural, social and economic divides?

Globalization offers many people an opportunity to improve the quality of their lives. This opportunity, however, can be grasped only if one is educated, has highly developed social skills, and has access to well functioning labour- and/or capital markets. Many people, however, still remain excluded, including the populations of many developing countries and almost all of Africa.

Although economically, the world is becoming a "global village", there is still a long way to go before we can speak of a fully global economy. Socio-economically, however, we still seem to live in even more than one world.

This cultural, social and economic divide must be bridged. How can environmental values be made one of the central pillars of this bridge?

The environmental risks loom ever larger as industrialization and urbanization take hold in developing countries and the lifestyles and modes of consumption of industrialized countries diffuse worldwide.

Gradual improvements to the environment are increasingly regarded as insufficient to meet the commitments made in Rio de Janeiro eight years ago. More fundamental change is required, but it may take decades to bring about more fundamental change in energy infrastructures, urban settlements, transport systems, consumer technologies, and particularly in lifestyles.

Do we risk running out of time?

There *are,* however, signs of hope. Environmental awareness is constantly rising, particularly among young people but also in the private sector. International discussions on the future of the global economy are centered, among other things, around the role that multilateral environmental agreements could play in shaping the global framework for the economy. Are we prepared to grasp this opportunity and shoulder the responsibility?

Are we prepared to grasp this opportunity and shoulder the responsibility?

Linked to the process of globalization is the discussion over its potential to diminish the role of the nation-state and to shift "power" into the hands of other stakeholders. The private sector has become a dominant feature in today's world.

Civil society plays a major role in raising environmental awareness around the globe. In many cases women have taken the lead. Thirty years ago, these groups put the environment on the political agenda, both nationally and internationally. They continue to do as evidenced by the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle. The fact that civil society is increasingly networked through the Internet facilitates the coordination of their views and expectations towards national, regional, and global environmental policies. They have become a serious partner in negotiations of multilateral environmental agreements.

Partnerships with both the private sector and civil society are a powerful tool to advance the goal of sustainable development. This first Global Ministerial Environment Forum is thus an important opportunity to lay the foundation for partnerships between government, the private sector, and major civil society groups, including the media.

The following pages contain background information on the three major themes for the Forum:

- *Major environmental challenges in the new century;*
- *Private sector and the environment – preparing for the 21st century;*
- *Civil society – responsibility and role towards the environment in the globalised world.*

This background information is not meant to exhaustively address these themes, but rather to initiate and support the exchange of views and dialogue among the participants to ministerial discussions at the Forum.

Reference Note: Unless otherwise indicated, the main reference for facts and figures in this document is *Global Environment Outlook 2000*, UNEP, 1999.

Agenda Item 4: Environmental Challenges in the New Century

At the beginning of the 21st Century, there is no doubt that the natural systems on which all life depends are severely impacted by human activity. During the past century, these systems have borne the stresses imposed by an eighteen-fold increase in world economic output and fourfold increase in human population. The increasing demands and activities of growing economies combined with a world population of over six billion are exceeding the productive and regenerative capacity of these systems (see Box 1 and Box 2).

If we continue with "business as usual", the predictions are indeed serious. During the next 50 years, the population is predicted to increase by 50% to 9 billion. The extra 3 billion people who must be housed, fed, clothed and educated, and who will most live in already overcrowded cities of developing countries, will substantially increase the threat to environmental, economic and social sustainability at the local, regional and global scale (see Figure 1 next page).

What will the 21st Century hold for the environment?

UNEP's Global Environment Outlook 2000 (GEO-2000) identified three categories of priority:

- *Unforeseen events and scientific discoveries - Nature is still full of surprises;*
- *Sudden, unexpected transformation of old issues;*
- *Well-known issues to which the present response is inadequate.*

Priority issues of today will continue to rank high on the agenda of tomorrow. The complexity and magnitude of problems such as climate change, freshwater scarcity and pollution, deforestation, desertification, loss of biodiversity, and chemical pollution will not allow easy and quick solutions.

BOX 1: Environmental Challenges

- Since 1950, **global emissions of CO_2** from human activity **have risen almost 400%** and are still rising;
- About one-third of the world's population is currently living under **moderate or severe water stress** and this proportion is still increasing;
- Over **one-half of all wetlands** have been altered or destroyed;
- 25% of the earth's surface is already affected by **land degradation**;
- Since 1960, more than **one-fifth of the world's tropical forests** has been lost;
- More than **one-half of the world's coral reefs** are potentially threatened by human activities;
- Almost **70% of marine fisheries** are either fully exploited or overfished;
- In 1996, **25% of the world's mammal species and 11% of the bird species** were at significant risk of total extinction.

BOX 2: Social and Economic Repercussions

- Unsafe water and poor sanitation cause an estimated 80% of all diseases in the developing world; the annual death toll exceeds 5 million, of which more than **one-half are children.**
- Worldwide, more than **one billion** urban residents are exposed to health-threatening levels of pollution; in eleven East Asian cities alone, air pollution causes more than 50,000 premature deaths and 400,000 new cases of chronic bronchitis per year.
- In 1998, an estimated 25 million "environmental refugees" emerged as a result of weather-related disasters.
- Global damage from natural disasters was estimated at **US$120 billion** for the two years 1997 and 1998.
- Desertification and drought affect more than 900 million people in 100 countries.

Additional new challenges to the environment may still be lying in wait, which explode once the carrying capacity of the receiving ecosystem is exceeded.

Others appear on the horizon, such as nutrient overload. Excess nitrogen from human uses in agriculture, energy production, and transport are beginning to affect the nitrogen cycles with a raft of effects from diminished soil fertility to toxic algael blooms.

The driving forces will remain:

- *The size of the human population;*
- *The per capita consumption of resources;*
- *The technologies used to produce and consume these resources.*

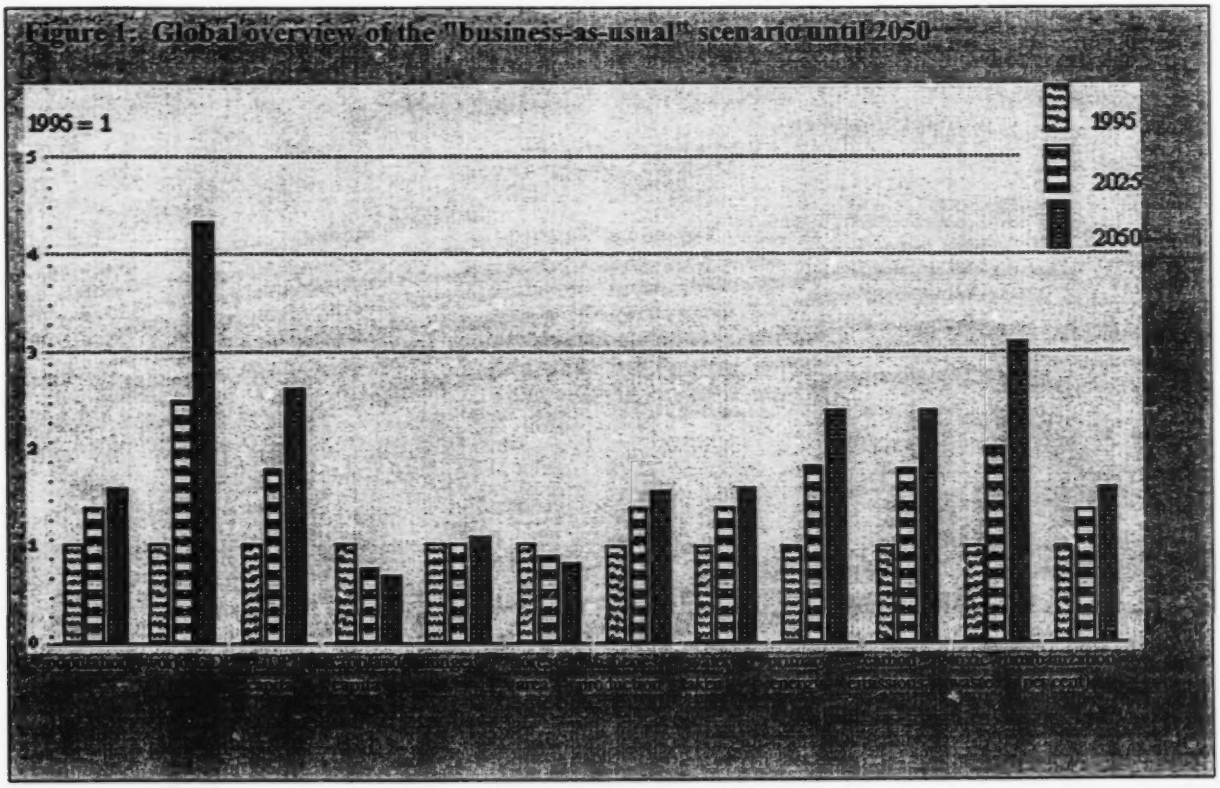
The projected population increase of 3 billion by 2050 is self-explanatory. The fact that urban population is projected to double to more than 5 billion people in only 25 years and that 90 per cent of this increase is expected to occur in developing countries should start causing us nightmares now. The situation will be aggravated by the consumption intensive Western life-style conquering the rest of the world.

The challenge is unchanged. Would a global commitment to a tenfold reduction in resource consumption in industrialised countries, and a fourfold reduction in developing countries, be a means to make progress in this regard?

Will we be able to decouple economic growth from resource consumption?

Would a global commitment to a tenfold reduction in resource consumption in industrialised countries, and a fourfold reduction in developing countries, be a means to make progress in this regard?

Figure 1: Global overview of the "business-as-usual" scenario until 2050



New developments in the third of the three driving forces, the technology sector, hold out hopes for change to the better.

Cleaner production technologies, especially in the energy, transport and other industrial sectors, have been proven to be both economically and environmentally profitable. For example,

Thailand's management plan reduced energy demand between 1993-1997, reduced carbon dioxide emissions, and continues to save consumers US$100 million annually.

Many degraded ecosystems such as rivers and lakes have been successfully cleaned up, for example the River Thames in the United Kingdom. Once severely polluted with sewage and urban and industrial wastes, the Thames is now the cleanest metropolitan river in Europe, thanks to intense clean-up efforts and strict environmental laws enforced since the 1960s.

Numerous innovative technology developments are in the pipeline that might help decrease our destructive impact on the environment considerably, such as:

- *Intelligent vehicle highway systems;*
- *120 mile per gallon (litres) personal vehicles;*
- *Manufacturing for durability, reclamation, re-manufacturing and recycling;*
- *Earthquake prevention;*
- *Weather modification.*

Box 3: Possible benefits of new IT:

- more telecommuting reduces transport – one minute travelling uses same energy as 20 minutes of computer use and office space.
- Business-to-business e-commerce creates efficiencies in inventory, thus reducing the need for physical structures;
- Business-to-consumer e-commerce reduces retail space – OECD estimates 12.5 per cent reduction saving US$5 billion in annual energy costs.
- Email replaces paper-based mail reducing the need for paper.
- Intelligent vehicle/highway systems reduce energy use

Twenty-five years from now information technologies (IT) will probably have penetrated every aspect of human activity. Provided the rapid diffusion of IT around the globe continues, IT might be a means to help bridge the divide between North and South, allowing, to some degree, a process of technological "catch up" if not "leap-frogging". IT opens up the possibility of profound transformations in business and in the daily life of human beings.

The state of the global environment described in GEO2000 requires more global solidarity with regard to the environmental challenges ahead of us.

The potential of the new technologies to decrease the impact on the environment is huge. However, the question of how they can be diffused rapidly, and to developing countries, is not yet solved and needs to remain high on the agenda.

Although new technologies offer good prospects for environmental improvement, we cannot afford to be lax about other issues.

Further effort is needed to improve the enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) – an improvement that is urgently required. Disregarding formerly accepted international obligations requires an international response. Would reports on environmental impacts of MEAs be more effective if they are prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with representatives from all the regions other than the region to which the reviewed country belongs? Appropriately developed, such reports might become a useful tool in our efforts to better coordinate MEAs. Would we even want to think of sanctions and develop a kind of penal code to help achieve our objectives of MEAs?

Are existing national environmental reporting requirements sufficient?

Are sanctions appropriate?

In this context, more thought should also be given to how a global environmental community living in a globalizing economy could apply economic instruments more efficiently, such as tradable emission permits, and taxes on emissions and products. We ought to take advantage of the preventive nature of the polluter pays principle and develop the necessary tools to apply it efficiently.

Is there a need for harmonization of accounting practices for the estimation of environmental costs?

The following two sections address the need for better conservation of biodiversity and the recent increase in environmental disasters. Both issues warrant specific attention – biodiversity because of its life-sustaining functions and environmental disasters because of their serious threat to life-sustaining ecosystems.

Biodiversity, Protecting the Global Commons

As we achieve our environmental goals, we must ensure that future generations can sustain their lives on this planet. A fundamental challenge is to secure the basis for this sustainability. Human survival, wellbeing, and social and economic development are dependent on the functioning and productivity of the earth's physical and biological systems. These systems – the global commons - provide goods and services in the forms of food, water and raw materials, purification of air and water, flood control and the maintenance of biodiversity. The annual value of these services has been conservatively estimated at over US$36 trillion in 1998 – about the same as the US$39 trillion estimated for Gross World Product in 1998.

Harvesting the goods that ecosystems produce via agriculture, forestry and fishing is the basis for many national economies and provides every two jobs worldwide and seven out of ten in subsaharan Africa, East Asia and the Pacific. In a quarter of the world's nations, crops, timber and fish contribute more to the economy than industrial goods. As importantly, the earth's ecosystems provide recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, and a basis for many intrinsic cultural and spiritual values.

All components of ecosystems are closely interlinked and function as a single entity. Humans are not just part of and users of nature, they are also *trustees* of this natural capital. This idea implies a high degree of responsibility for their use and damage - a responsibility to be borne not only by people themselves, but also by governments, particular when nations share transboundary ecosystems.

As seen in Box 1, the scale of human activities is the primary source of pressures on ecosystems today. These pressures are altering natural landscapes, degrading ecosystems and reducing biological diversity. The "tragedy of the commons" is the absence of a rational reason to restrain harvests that are freely available to others, (often applied to potentially renewable resources such as fisheries) and is one root cause of these pressures.

Our global commons are frequently taken for granted since they do not have any perceived owners. They are being heavily impacted since there are few incentives to manage and use them sustainably. Major threats to the global commons are posed by increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide, massive use of fertilizers, and overexploitation of marine fisheries.

Do we need to improve and further develop the international legal regime for oceans, sea and the air to better sustain our future?

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At the same tim , there are still many gaps in our knowledge of how ecosystems function, which evokes the concept of "the precautionary principle" before resources are used. For example, only 2 million of the estimated 7-20 million species on the Earth have been identified, and yet the expected loss of species over the next 25 years is predicted to be between 140,000 and 5 million species. As the result of human activities, the lowest current estimated rate of species extinction is approximately 1000 times the natural rate and all regions of the wold are contributing to this loss. (see Box 4).

	Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Amphibians	Fishes	Total
Latin America and the Caribbean	263	353	76	27	103	822
North America	94	84	35	27	190	430
West Asia	23	22	8	0	5	58
Africa	289	207	48	17	127	688
Europe and Central Asia	89	53	29	12	104	287
Asia and the Pacific	515	521	104	47	216	1403

Box 4 Number of globally threatened vertebrate species by region.

The WWF 1999 Living Planet Index suggests a substantial decline in the world's natural wealth since 1970. The increasing scale of

the threats to the global commons requires coordinated international action, since they cannot be reduced by the individual actions of nations. International scientific and political cooperation is thus needed to further understand the complex web of life, and how that web can sustain human life in the 21st century. In addition, the links between global environmental issues lend themselves to a movement by the international community beyond negotiating separate agreements for each issue.

This would create more opportunities for both trade-offs and synergies, thereby generating solutions through concerted global action. Furthermore, the common global elements of biodiversity resources cannot readily be separated from the ecosystems where they occur. To address this and other issues, UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank and the World Resources Institute are planning to conduct the Millennium Assessment of Global Ecosystems, subject to the support of governments and other stakeholders.

Environmental Disasters

Economic and developmental activities interact with components of ecosystems and are the likely cause of the changing patterns of their functioning, creating the ground for severe natural phenomena and environmental disasters.

The world's societies and environment are increasingly suffering from the effects of natural disasters. A disaster usually results from the combination of a vulnerable environment and a hazard such as floods, tropical storms, earthquakes, landslides, wild fires, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis. They can cause the loss of life, property and livelihoods (see Box 5).

Human behaviour is the overwhelming cause of increasing vulnerability to natural hazards. This global development is directly linked to a number of trends, such as increasing poverty, population growth and greater density, unwise land use and inadequately planned urbanization, environmental degradation and disturbance of formerly stable ecosystems, and climate change. Combinations of factors make specific areas even more susceptible. For instance, the population boom in urban and coastal areas has compounded factors such as high population concentration, vulnerable infrastructure, and settlements built in floodplains or areas prone to landslides. Misguided planning has also increased the vulnerability to disasters by siting potentially-hazardous facilities - such as nuclear power plants, chemical factories and major dams - in earthquake zones and densely-populated areas.

The number of major catastrophic events over the past ten years has increased three-fold when compared to the 1960's, while the rate of economic losses associated with them has increased by a

factor of almost nine during the same period. Overall, the poorest, most exposed communities are the most likely to suffer from major disasters and thus, less developed countries proportionally incur a much higher cost to natural disasters.

Following the 1997-1998 El Niño event, the economic losses of the United States were estimated at US$ 1.96 billion which represents 0.03% of the GDP. Ecuador suffered equivalent dollar losses, but they represent 11.4% of its GDP. Least developed countries with limited economic diversity must not only rely more heavily on external relief following a disaster, but the economy takes longer to recover. In developed economies, governments are able to deal with natural disasters using a limited amount of external support and the economic costs are absorbed, to an extent, by a more diversified economy.

BOX 5: Natural disasters in 1999

- A 6.0 magnitude earthquake killed 1,185 people, left 159,000 homeless in Armenia, Colombia, in January.
- Thousands of avalanches came down in the tourist areas of the Austrian and Swiss Alps, killing more than 100 people in February and March.
- Earthquakes in August and November claimed more than 20,000 lives in Turkey.
- An earthquake hit Taichung, Taiwan on 20 September, killing 2,400 people and causing over US$ 11,000 billion economic losses.
- In October, rains in southern Mexico killed over 400 people and drove some 300,000 others from their homes. The floods were the worst in 40 years.
- Cyclone 05 B, which raged in the Bay of Bengal at the end of October, killed as many as 30,000 in Orissa, India.
- A 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Vanuatu on November 27. The earthquake caused a giant tidal wave that killed 12 people, injured scores and destroyed the homes of over 1,000 people.
- The death toll in Venezuela probably exceeded 30,000 as a result of debris avalanches and mudslides following eleven days of continuous rainfall in December.
- Storms generated losses amounting to US$5bn - US$ 6bn in Germany, Austria, France, Spain and Switzerland at the end of December and caused over a 100 fatalities.

The sheer scope of the socio-economic impacts of natural disasters has brought about a shift in the political approach to dealing with the concept of risk in modern societies. As a result, the international community has recognised the need to shift towards pro-active remedies.

The United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, in his opening remarks to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Programme Forum in July 1999 affirmed: "We must, above all, shift from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention. The humanitarian community does a remarkable job in responding to disasters. But the most important task in the medium and long term is to strengthen and broaden programmes, which reduce the number and cost of disasters in the first place. Prevention is not only more humane than the cure, it is also much cheaper."

The UN has already established a global platform, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), to enable all communities to withstand the effects of natural disasters and to proceed from the protection against hazards to the management of risk through the integration of risk prevention into sustainable

development. The continuing challenge is to find means by which collective participation and multidisciplinary assessment relevant to risk and environmental management becomes a reality.

The increasing frequency and intensity of natural and man-made disasters clearly demonstrate the need for enhanced disaster preparedness at both the national and international levels. The ability to manage crises is critically dependent on the availability of information linked in national networks, and a rapid, coordinated response. How can global communications technology be used as a powerful tool to support information needs for the management of emergencies, particularly through the establishment of a clearing-house mechanism?

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Agenda Item 5: The Private Sector and the Environment: Preparing for the 21st Century

The private sector has become a dominant feature in today's globalizing world because of trade liberalization, cross border investments, and flows of capital, as well as spectacular advances in the field of information technology. Other technology developments underway, particularly in the field of biotechnology, bioengineering, energy, and materials, will also fundamentally shape an increasingly technological future.

To illustrate, consider that the turnover of capital of the three largest global car manufacturers exceeds the GNP of the whole African continent.

Box 1: Globalization: Facts and Figures

- Daily exchange trading:
  - US $1,900 million in 1900
  - $20 billion per day in 1992
  - $1.5 trillion per day in 1998
- Net private capital flows to low and middle income countries:
  - a few million in 1950
  - $243 billion in 1996 including 176 to middle income countries
    - 60 to China and India
    - 7 to low income countries
- The turnover of the 10 largest companies exceeds the combined GDP of the 100 smallest countries.
- An estimated 300,000 additional persons connect to the Internet every day.

Business and industry are the sources of most technology innovation and drive the process of globalization, which in turn is leading to the restructuring of many industry sectors. For example, a number of chemical companies are now reorienting their business from chemistry to biology to become 'life-science' companies. Companies offering Internet services are becoming more important than telecommunications operators.

The oil industry is increasingly entering the renewable energy business while in the financial sector, the globalization process has been by far more rapid and is nearly complete making financial capital an internationally mobile factor of production. Mergers, acquisitions, and cross border relationships have changed the face of the financial services industry globally while capital markets provide an alternative to conventional bank loans. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) represents an increasing share of total capital flow between countries; by the mid 1990s FDI to developing countries was five times larger than Official Development Assistance (ODA). Privatization of many public services, such as water, energy, and transport in all parts of the world has also contributed to the increasing importance of the private sector.

Globalization has generated growth and structural efficiencies, making it possible for the resulting higher incomes to be invested in environmental protection, social welfare programmes, and development projects. Multinational enterprises often apply the environmental and social standards of the country in which they are headquartered in affiliated companies abroad. The management practices and technological characteristics of multinational

enterprises have, in many cases, influenced the practices and standards of their business partners. In that respect, the development and use of ISO 14001 standards have led to improved environmental performance within companies, including many small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

But there are many cases where countries with low environmental regulatory standards, less trained people, and less stringent enforcement of law are considered to be an excellent market for polluting technologies and production processes. These practices often not only degrade natural resources, but also affect the health of people – particularly the poorest. Hazardous wastes continue to be exported illegally – again, preferably to developing countries lacking appropriate treatment technologies – or are being dumped in the open sea.

Just-in-time production and delivery methods prove to be more cost-effective than traditional storage practices; but only at high infrastructure and environmental cost borne by the society at large.

Around the globe, the sheer amount of urban waste remains a paramount problem despite all current efforts in waste reduction. A number of public/private partnerships have been developed to address this issue, such as the Duales system in Germany, the Packaging covenant in the Netherlands, and the Ecoemballages system in France. Countries have promoted the extended producer responsibility aiming at transferring the costs of waste management to those who are conceiving the products that are a source of waste.

Box 2: The Packaging Industry and the Environment

Packaging:

- represent between 25% and 50% of urban wastes in developing countries and is a main source of litter;
- has lead to several billions in dollars of collection and disposal costs yearly that the consumer and local authorities have to bear;
- contributes significantly to the consumption of natural resources – for example, around 50% of total paper consumption in OECD countries is used for packaging and wrapping;
- represents on average 20% of the final cost of products for domestic consumption.

Results of the combination between financial incentive legislation and voluntary agreements have contributed to reductions in volume and weight of packages. For example, in New Zealand, the packaging industry has reduced packaging weight by more than 20% in the past 12 years. In Germany, more than 5.6 million tons of packaging were recycled in 1998. In France, the plastic yogurt pot or glass bottle waste was decreased by about 50%.

Global companies occupy a critical phase in present development. Their decisions heavily influence the economic prospects of people, nations and, to a great extent, the future of the ecosystems of the planet. Increasingly questions are being raised on their role and responsibilities. The debate revolves around a number of inter-linked issues, including:

- *Corporate 'purpose' and objectives - e.g., is shareholder value the goal of a company or simply the means to achieve a higher purpose?*
- *Corporate governance and accountability - e.g., what are the responsibilities and obligations of companies to societies?*
- *Incentives - e.g., how can corporate objectives as well as*

environmental and societal objectives be more closely aligned?

- *National and global governance - e.g., how can national governments and global institutions unleash the power of companies to achieve societal and environmental goals?*

In response, business is moving corporate responsibility to the forefront of its agenda.

The United Nations Secretary-General requests that the rights of global companies to operate "globally" must be accompanied by greater responsibilities – through the concept and practice of global corporate citizenship.

Innovative approaches

The private sector, through innovative approaches, is the driving force of technological change. From the environmental point of view, developments in new technologies are of critical importance to greatly diminish the environmental degradation caused by all sectors of the economy. These technologies include:

Information technology

Information technology has already produced radical changes in world society, but we have barely begun to feel the transformational consequences of the newest developments. From an environmental point of view, information technology can lead to a "dematerialization" of many aspects of our society. More broadly, this revolution may lead to an efficiency revolution of the traditional physical distribution channels using electronic commerce between businesses and the digital delivery of goods and services to customers. These goods include software programmes, newspapers, travel tickets, music, and interactive retail ordering of tangible goods. Thus, it can contribute to the *Factor 10* improvement of resource productivity that experts have said is necessary to achieve sustainable development (see box 3).

Box 3: Environmental and social impacts of e-entertainment

Music, video, multimedia stored in digital form on the telecom network and provided in real-time to the end-user through the Internet will:

- dematerialize the CD and tape industry
- save energy and resources involved in packaging, transport, and sales
- fundamentally change the structure of the entertainment industry
- render difficult the geographical identification of the entertainment providers and purchasers
- possibly result in an impact on the ability of national governments to tax such transactions
- reduce restrictions that governments place on content or sales.

Information technology will also be of great assistance to obtain a better understanding of the world's ecosystems and thus will support environmentally sound decision-making.

Biotechnology and genetics engineering

The possibilities of modern biotechnology are virtually endless. It will transform the agricultural, nutrition and health sectors. A growing number of commentators argue that modern

biotechnology will even rewrite the way in which we define ourselves as human beings.

Biotechnology promises to make a significant contribution to meet the growing consumption needs of the global population and other challenges. It has the potential to enable the development of better health care, enhanced food security, and improved supplies of better quality water. New biotechnology may also provide more efficient industrial development processes for transforming raw materials, support for sustainable methods of afforestation and reforestation, better sewage treatment, improved decontamination of land and soil, and detoxification of hazardous wastes.

Biotechnology is one of many tools that can play an important role to support the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and landscapes. New biotechnologies also offer opportunities for global partnerships between countries rich in biological resources (including genetic resources) and those that have developed the technological expertise to transform biological resources, hopefully to serve the needs of sustainable development. In this regard the question of benefit-sharing is being discussed.

Developments in this sector, however, are also raising a number of questions related to human values; they might irreversibly change ecological, economic and social dynamics. Increasingly numerous voices highlight the still poorly understood risks associated with biotechnologies. We know too little about the ecological interactions among the multitude of micro-organisms and higher organisms involved. It remains uncertain, in the long run, how the environment will react to the release of genetically modified organisms. Ecological damage might occur and become known only after decades. The Biosafety Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity is an initial step to meet these concerns.

Energy technology and mobility

History has seen successive waves of energy sources powering development: first wood and water, then coal, later petroleum and natural gas, and, to a significant degree, nuclear power. The issues of climate change and air pollution have initially driven energy efficiency in all sectors, in particular manufacturing, construction and transportation. But this is by far not enough. In the next 25 years, increases in carbon dioxide emissions from highly populated countries will be large – almost three-quarters of the total increase for the world. Several rapidly growing economies continue to rely heavily on coal. Sulphur emissions and related acidification impacts also constitute a major environmental threat.

The global energy infrastructure must move towards a much greater use of renewable energy. Privatization and competitiveness are changing the electricity business in particular, bringing new opportunities for small-scale generators and distributed systems, but in some ways making it harder for renewable energy technologies to compete.

Closely associated with energy use is transportation, another area where technology innovation is underway but certainly not enough to offset the projected increase in air pollution related to road and air transport. Road transport is projected to increase from about 12,500 billion kilometers in 2000 to 26,000 billion by 2030.

The tourism industry, one of the fastest-growing industries globally, is highly energy intensive. With the inception of mass long distance air travel, this industry has become one of the important consumers in the energy market. Since 1970, air transport volumes have consistently grown about twice as fast as the economy as a whole – at high environmental cost. Taxing of aviation fuel might be a means to further the development of more energy efficient planes.

Market Opportunities

With regard to sustainable development, the new technologies offer significant promise. Solutions to the current and future economic, social and environmental problems will have to be found by making the most efficient use of them globally.

Box 4: Sustainable Mobility

Technical progress towards new engines/new fuels for vehicles, as well as the use of IT and intelligent transport systems, will address the pressing environmental concerns, such as CO_2 emissions, local pollutants and noise emissions. All vehicle manufacturers are currently developing at least one of the following:

- *Fuel cell technology (electricity needed for electrolysis could either come from fossil fuel or renewable energy forms, such as wind and solar);*
- *Hybrid vehicles;*
- *Natural gas vehicles;*
- *Biofuel vehicles;*
- *More fuel efficient gasoline and diesel engine vehicles, equipped with better filters.*

These efforts are supported by new vehicle designs and the use of lighter materials such as aluminium, magnesium and plastics, as well as natural fibres and other renewable raw materials and recycled materials.

Furthermore, increasing research on the use of IT and telematics may help to reduce fuel consumption and, at the same time, address congestion problems.

A major difficulty for environmental policy is how to promote sustainable technologies within a market economy that selects products and processes not on the basis of environmental criteria, but on the basis of profitability. Several options out of this dilema are being discussed:

- *Promotion of a life-cycle economy to cover products from cradle-to-cradle;*
- *The stricter application of the polluter pays principle through liability and compensation regimes, both nationally and within the globalized economy, and in the context of multilateral environmental agreements;*
- *International procurement policies, either through the direct support of research and development, or through subsidizing the use or development of environmentally beneficial technologies within private firms; and*

- *Subsidies or aid programmes, such as tax credits or cooperative research projects between industry and public research institutes.*

Given the state of global environmental degradation and the prospects highlighted in the background paper on the environmental challenges, an essential goal of these policies should be to encourage the rapid international diffusion of environmentally beneficial technologies, particularly to developing countries. This subject has been on the international environment agenda since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro with little progress though, from an environmental perspective, it deserves a high priority.

Waking the Financial Markets

In principle, the financial services sector has the means to assist governments to re-orient markets towards sustainable development and to direct financial resources towards projects or companies that have demonstrated good environmental performance. Financial markets are "greening", but much too slowly. Some major financial corporations have begun to internalize the fact that environmental matters are money matters. In this regard, the banking and insurance industry initiatives of UNEP serve as catalysts for the exchange of experience and ideas.

However, a great number of bankers, insurers and pension funds still seem reluctant to acknowledge and respond to environmental risks as potential financial risks. They believe that environmental and social concerns are irrelevant - or even detrimental - to generating good investment performance. The lack of databases, measurement tools, commonly accepted standards, and benchmarks has been an obstacle.

However, today a number of environmental and social rating providers are offering rating systems based on eco-efficiency and other indicators. Pilot projects of a number of investment banks offering environmentally-screened funds in the market have achieved competitive, three year track records in profitability. Thus, the beginnings of financial environmentalism are in sight.

In view of the above, all those responsible for the environment might want to reflect on what the chances a re-orientation of the financial market offer and the means to realize them.

Challenges at the start of the 21st century:

- Decouple economic growth from resource use, in particular energy use;
- Give "teeth" to the polluter pays principle;
- Create the global regulatory framework to guide the globalizing economy towards sustainability and adopt appropriate international measures;
- Ensure that trade measures and environmental agreements will be mutually supportive, contributing to sustainability;
- Re-orient research and technology development efforts to ensure that technological innovation will contribute to achieving sustainability;
- Strengthen the 'Global Reporting Initiative', aiming at developing benchmarking between companies and sectors on their environmental and social performance, and ensuring adequate verification of environmental reports of the private sector;
- Develop the public/private partnerships, in co-operation with the civil society;

The crucial question is how to equate the environmental risk of an economic activity of a third party with the financial risk of the investor. The importance of legislation to control pollution by requiring industrial remediation or imposing fines is broadly recognized. But beyond the command and control aspects of legislation there is a less acknowledged force: the power of liability. In accordance with the polluter pays principle, present laws hold liable the entity harming the environment but not the financiers to that activity. How, and by what means, might this be changed?

Another approach to introduce the assessment of environmental risk into financial risk assessment would be to make environmental reporting mandatory, as has recently been done with pension funds in the United Kingdom. New regulations coming into force in July 2000 require pension funds to state their policy on the extent to which social, environmental or ethical considerations are taken into account in the selection, retention and realization of investments.

The Sum is Greater than the Parts

Over the last twenty-five years, there has been a gradual conceptual shift in the way the private sector approaches society's environmental concerns. From the reactive, end-of-pipe compliance approach of the 1970s, to a more public relations approach of the eighties, the private sector is increasingly orientated toward the preventive, cleaner production, eco-efficiency approach of the 1990s. A number of regulatory measures have been enacted to promote this shift to a "cradle-to cradle" or "life-cycle" economy. Additional economic instruments and institutional approaches have been adopted - and are still needed - to re-orient markets towards this economy and sustainability. Development of comprehensive liability and compensation regimes could be a key strategy to achieve environmental and sustainable development goals.

All of these challenges will only be met in close global partnership between the private sector, governments of the North and the South, and civil society and when all of the partners fully realise that progress will only be made by joining forces.

Agenda Item 6:Civil Society - Responsibility and Role Towards the Environment in the Globalized World

Causes of environmental degradation find their roots partly in the way in which we live and the way we run our societies. Environmental issues, therefore, are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens at appropriate the level. Commitment and genuine involvement of civil society is a key to the effective environmental governance needed to meet major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century.

Civil society nurtures values, norms and codes of conduct for behaviour of individuals, groups and organizations in conformity with its cultural, religious and other heritages. In contrast to the regulatory frameworks developed by the government, civil society is the source of voluntary actions. Civil society holds an important role and responsibility to complement the actions of the government to address political, social and economic issues, including those related to the environment.

In some developed countries, the scale of civil society organizations is comparable to that of the public sector. In developing countries, the most visible element of civil society's growth is the growing number of non-governmental organizations that address specific problems or needs.

Civil society groups and organizations have contributed significantly to the global environmental agenda and the development of global environmental conventions. The reflection of their wide range of interests in economic and social issues onto the relevant intergovernmental fora has provided important momentum of practical approaches to sustainable development.

Civil society lies at the heart of sustainable development. At the local level, groups and organizations have been formed by local people to solve local problems through self-reliant action. Through these civil society channels, people are seeking ways to gain information, training, technology, finance, and access to markets in order to increase their incomes and improve their circumstances. Civil society movements have built up impressive records of achievement worldwide - from field activities (such as tree planting) to lobbying to the inputs to decision-making.

With the growing globalization of economic activities, communications, and other areas, entities within the civil society (such as non-profit public interest groups, religious institutions or business corporations) act and communicate beyond national boarders. Through such trans-boarder contacts, the entities of civil societies in different States can share their interests separate from the intergovernmental level, while their activities complement those of governments. Environmental issues are among the subjects on

which active trans-boarder contacts and networks have been formed, particularly through non-governmental environmental organizations.

Recognizing the important responsibility and role of civil society in the field of the environment in a "globalized world", the following issues need to be addressed.

Value, norms and codes of conducts

One of the major challenges to overcome unsustainable development patterns is the need to activate a sense of common purpose among all sectors of society. The chances of forging such a sense of purpose will depend on the willingness of all sectors to participate in genuine partnership and dialogue, while recognizing the independent roles, responsibilities and special capacities of each sector. The functions of civil society to nurture values, norms, and codes of conduct are the basis for developing such a sense of common purpose. Issues that are close to the quality of individual life, such as unsustainable patterns of consumption, will require changes in those respects within civil society.

How could civil society nurture and promote values, norms and codes of conduct contributing to environmental protection and sustainable development? What are the ways and means to facilitate them?

In the globalized world, the above discussion might involve a process of sharing values, norms and codes of conduct among civil societies in different countries worldwide. A global civil society might emerge following such a process. What would be the factors to facilitate such process? Building a knowledge base of people though education might be a key activity. In addition to traditional methods of teaching and training, better means of communications supported by recent information technology seems to be a means to facilitate this education and the media is a powerful tool to provide specific directions in this process.

Responsibilities and role

Civil society groups and organizations, such as non-governmental organizations, play a vital role shaping and implementing the participatory approach to meet environmental challenges. Their credibility lies in the responsible and constructive role they play in society. Formal and informal organizations, as well as grass-roots movements, should be recognized as partners for environmental protection and sustainable development.

Such groups and organizations, often networked in many countries, possess well-established and diverse experience, expertise and capacity in the field of environmentally sound and socially responsible sustainable development. They have an important role to identify the scientific and policy links among global environmental issues and the ways in which they influence the ability of countries to meet basic human needs.

They also play an important role to mobilize grassroots actions, including conservation of nature and natural resources, developing consumer awareness to change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, or addressing the liability of certain industries for causing environmental pollution.

Given their important roles, what are the best ways to ensure that civil society groups and organizations play their respective roles and carry out their responsibilities towards environmental protection and sustainable development?

To complement government actions, civil society as a whole, as well as groups and organizations therein, need to make a genuine commitment to achieve the goals of environmental protection and sustainable development. While such a commitment might be voluntary, its potential contribution could be a major factor to achieve our environmental goals. If such commitment becomes accountable to the government, there could be a meaningful partnership between civil society and the government.

Support and empower civil society

To deal with major environmental challenges, civil society groups and organizations, in particular those in developing countries, need to build their knowledge base, and develop a range of new skills and competencies. With new environmental challenges emerging continuously, such self-development itself would pose a major institutional challenge to civil groups and organizations.

What is an appropriate method to formally recognize the responsibility of civil society groups and organizations and to account for their contribution towards national or international environmental policy objectives?

It is the fundamental prerequisite for the achievement of sustainable development to ensure broad and meaningful participation of civil society groups and organizations in decision-making on environmental matters. This might include, for example, their participation in environmental impact assessment procedures and decision-making processes, particularly those that affect the community where they live and work. It might require also securing for them access to information relevant to environmental and development issues and which is held by national authorities, including information on products and activities that have, or are likely to have, a significant impact on the environment, and information on environmental protection measures. Their participation might require, where appropriate, the development of a legal and institutional basis for this access.

What are desirable mechanisms to address the need of civil society groups and organizations to enhance their capabilities to deal with major environmental challenges?

The United Nations, despite the fact that it is a polity of Sates, is one of the privileged venues of relationship between the civil society and the States. In many parts of the UN, the civil society organizations are being welcomed as legitimate contributors to global governance. NGOs are now involved at levels previously unimaginable within the UN process - from the delivery of humanitarian relief to policy advice on global environmental management. International conferences have catalyzed a spectacular growth in the sheer number of organizations interested in playing a part in global decision-making.

How can governments and intergovernmental organization (such as UNEP) best support and empower civil society?

What are desirable methods to ensure inputs from civil society are made to the Governing Council?

Role of the Media

As the population size of each community grows and urbanization progresses, the media has become an instrument in civil society to build the knowledge base of people in political, economic, social, scientific and cultural matters. Newspapers, magazines, radio and television all provide essential services in this regard.

The media provides people in civil society with information on what is happening nationally and internationally, and conveys views and opinions of people in civil society through its own expression. It plays the role as a communication bridge between various stakeholders within civil society and between civil society and the government. The media also provides services to educate people and increasing provides an awareness of new and emerging issues, such as global environmental problems. Economic and social phenomena, such as unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, become known to the public through the media.

In the globalized world, what is the role and responsibility of the media to achieve the goals of environmental protection and sustainable development?

The ongoing globalization process is likely to increase the role of the media in civil society. Through worldwide coverage by the media, people can be assisted to understand differences among civil society in different parts of the world, observe common problems, and share certain values and norms across national boarders. The media is likely to accelerate a process leading towards the emergence of a global civil society.

UNITED
NATIONS

EP

Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment
Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/GCSS.VI/9
17 July 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixth special session
Malmö, Sweden, 29-31 May 2000

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON THE WORK OF ITS GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM/SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION

29-31 May 2000

K0000176 200700

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CONTENTS

Page

INTRODUCTION 3

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION 4

A. Opening of the session 4

B. Attendance 7

C. Officers 9

D. Credentials of representatives 10

E. Adoption of the agenda 10

F. Organization of the work of the session 11

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS 12

III. MALMÖ DECLARATION 19

VI. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 20

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT 21

VI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION 22

Annexes

I. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM/SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION 23

II. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 31

III. LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM/SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL 34

INTRODUCTION

1. The first Global Ministerial Environment Forum – the sixth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – was held in Malmö, Sweden from 29 to 31 May 2000. It was convened in pursuance of paragraph 1 (g) of Governing Council decision 20/17 of 5 February 1999, entitled "Views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements", paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements" and paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, entitled "Pattern of conferences", and in accordance with rules 5 and 6 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council.

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

2. The first Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme was opened at 11 a.m. on Monday, 29 May 2000 by Mr. László Miklós, President of the Council.

3. In his opening statement, he expressed his deep appreciation to the Government of Sweden for the warm reception and very generous hospitality extended to participants and for the excellent facilities placed at their disposal.

4. The inaugural Global Ministerial Environment Forum, he said, represented an opportunity for reflection on how policies to protect the environment had been implemented, while at the same time charting a new way forward. The current meeting would be another milestone in the quest for sustainable development, which represented a basic precondition for peace and collective human security for global economic order. The Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 had been the single most influential event in the evolution of the international environmental movement. For the North, it was a direct challenge to unthinking and unregulated patterns of production and consumption. For the South, it was a challenge to the assumption that the Western industrial model was the most effective route to rapid and equitable development. It was also a first major call for global partnership, for the deep involvement of all in environmental matters. The final goal and the primary reason for the politics of the environment and sustainable development was to ensure the best possible physical status of the environment. Political, legal and economic instruments should fit that final goal, not the opposite. Market forces alone were not sufficient to adequately address poverty. Concerted efforts by developing States and assistance from the international community were required.

5. There was an urgent need to develop and implement new philosophies and to get away from the approach of "business as usual". There needed to be a rationalization of the costs between administration and the real costs of physical actions. Sustainable development also called for transparent control of the use of natural resources and other environmental values, independent from the individual economic interests of stakeholders.

6. UNEP was the most experienced and the central United Nations agency for sustainable development. The five main directions of the current UNEP programme adopted by the Governing Council at its twentieth session showed truly functional features. Each of them was crucial and solved global problems. The recent period showed that sustainable development needed integrated approaches. A special case of the integrated approach lay in synergy between environmental conventions, strengthening the enforcement and compliance mechanisms and embracing the use of market instruments. It was also necessary to build stronger partnerships with the private sector and other communities, as it was clear that private investment now dwarfed official development assistance in terms of funds. That change in value systems could only be brought about by the involvement of civil society.

7. In conclusion, he called upon each participant to examine the state of the environment, consider carefully the action to take and then address the common task of preserving both the conditions and the forms of life on the Earth in a mood of resolution and confidence. However complex sustainable development was, the foundation of environmental policies was the physical state of the environment, and the main task continued to lie in ensuring that it remained in good health.

8. A videotaped message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, was played to the Forum. He conveyed his best wishes for the success of the meeting, which he believed would help the United Nations to rise to the challenges of environmentally sustainable development. Despite the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio and such achievements as the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, unsustainable practices continued to be pursued in daily life. Governments had failed to protect resources and ecosystems and were even in danger of failing to keep up the debate on the issues. To tackle the growing problems, there were four priority needs: for a major effort to promote public education and increase awareness in civil society; for Governments to take fully into account environmental issues and green accounting practices; for Governments to enforce environmental agreements, cut subsidies to unsustainable activities, and increase incentives for sound environmental practices; and for sound scientific information. The dawn of the new millennium marked the time for action and for a renewed commitment to environmental conservation and stewardship.

9. Also at the opening meeting Mr. Ingvar Carlsson, former Prime Minister of Sweden, welcomed the participants to Malmö on behalf of the Government and people of Sweden. Noting the number of environment ministers gathered, he said that it was a hopeful sign for the future that so many of them had decided to come to Malmö and discuss the major environmental challenges for the new millennium. He recalled that Sweden had hosted the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, which had marked the beginning of far-reaching international cooperation to counter the negative environmental side-effects of scientific and technological advances. No single country could solve its environmental problems through unilateral action, and neither could any country escape responsibility for its impacts on the environment.

10. The time had come to forge new partnerships between Governments, the private sector and civil society to help alleviate poverty and the threats to human health and the environment caused by ignorance and negligence. The Global Ministerial Environment Forum provided an opportunity to send a strong

signal to the Millennium Summit of the United Nations that environmental problems would not go away, and that environmental aspects would have to be integrated into all aspects of society with everyone taking part in that endeavour. It was a difficult task, which could be achieved if new partnerships were forged and new ways found.

11. The Forum also heard a speech by Yvonne Maingey and Philip Tinker, two 12-year-old representatives of the UNEP Millennium International Children's Forum, which had been held in Eastbourne, United Kingdom, from 22 to 24 May 2000, bringing together over 700 children from 11 countries. The children described their own pledges to safeguard the environment and called upon those attending the Forum to meet the following challenges: enforce environmental laws, especially on water and pollution; provide clean water to all within the next 10 years; make recycling fun and provide more recycling bins; find environment-friendly alternatives to plastic bags by the year 2004; and promote the use of clean energy.

12. A statement was also made by Ms. Massumeh Ebtekar, Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and head of its Environment Organization, who read a message to the Forum from President Khatami, on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and in relation to the Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. In his message President Khatami urged the need for changes in the relation between human beings and nature. An end should be put to the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, alienation of humans from nature, egoistical attitudes and lifestyles, and unethical practices towards natural resources. Humans, who were not the masters of nature but its children, partners and protectors, could enjoy its endless benefits only if they opted for harmony and coexistence with nature instead of spiritual and physical alienation and attempts to harness and destroy it. Increased accountability on the part of the international community and the adoption of moral criteria in dealing with nature should accompany the quest for long-term and sustainable advantages instead of material and short-lived benefits. Development should not be equated with environmental destruction, consumerism, material wealth and supremacy. A major step in that direction could be taken through dialogue between cultures, an urgent imperative in the context of the upcoming Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, which could be instrumental in prompting international organizations to adopt a spiritual approach to nature based on humility.

13. A statement was made by Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz on behalf of 45 environment and development organizations which had met at a forum of non-governmental organizations in Malmö on 28 May 2000. She regretted that, while the 1990s had been "a decade of global agreements", it had not also been a decade of solutions. The circle of paralysis had to be broken, through a spirit of renewed resolve and conviction, and what the world needed from the Environment Forum was integrated rather than piecemeal solutions, and processes that promoted inclusion rather than exclusion. Poverty, ecological degradation, conflict and insecurity were the symptoms of a common underlying malaise – environmental and social injustice. Their solution lay in sustainable development. The second Earth Summit should not remain a mere anniversary marking unfulfilled hopes and aspirations, but should become the culmination of the process that began in Stockholm, in the shape of a global conference on sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the existing international commitments from Agenda 21 should be fully implemented. There was a need for the broad and meaningful participation of civil society groups and

organizations in decision-making on environmental matters, and the participation of young people, the elderly, women and indigenous peoples must be ensured.

14. She welcomed the UNEP initiative to establish a permanent dialogue with non-governmental organizations, but stressed the need for civil society involvement at a much higher level than hitherto. That was particularly important in the process leading to the second Earth Summit. Such organizations were well positioned to play a central role in monitoring compliance with international commitments by Governments and international organizations. At the same time, the United Nations system had to guard against the risks inherent in partnerships with commercial organizations, fruitful though they could be.

15. An opening statement was also made by Mr. Klaus Töpfer, the Executive Director of UNEP. After outlining the sequence of events that had led up to the holding of the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum, he expressed appreciation to the Swedish authorities for the contribution they had made to the organization of the Forum in Sweden, where UNEP had been born as a result of the 1972 Stockholm Conference. Thanks were also due to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to non-governmental organizations for their inputs.

16. The Global Environment Outlook which UNEP had published in 1999 had highlighted growing problems – imbalances in productivity and the distribution of goods and services, rapid population growth, increasing inequity in the global distribution of development, inadequate environmental stewardship, a global freshwater crisis, unsustainable exploitation and depletion of natural resources, and land degradation. Though much progress had been made since 1972, especially in the field of institutions and legislation, more was needed. Yet the message was essentially an optimistic one – mankind had the resources, human and material, to tackle the key problems of poverty and the need to change consumption patterns. The United Nations Millennium Assembly would have the task of discussing the role of the Organization in the twenty-first century, and the Ministerial Forum could supply an important input to that discussion, as it could to the review of progress made since the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development.

B. Attendance

17. The following States members of the Governing Council were represented at the session: 1/

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Austria
Bahamas
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Botswana
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Canada
China
Colombia
Comoros
Cuba
Denmark
Egypt
France
Gambia
Germany
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kazakhstan
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malawi
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Slovakia
Sudan
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Turkey
Uganda

1/ The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 56th plenary meeting of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, held on 26 November 1997, and the 38th plenary meeting of the fifty-fourth session, held on 25 October 1999.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

18. The following States not members of the Governing Council but Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency were represented by observers:

Algeria
Angola
Australia
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Djibouti
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Finland
Gabon
Greece
Guinea-Bissau
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Jordan
Kenya
Kiribati
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Oman
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Romania
Rwanda
Singapore
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Togo
Tunisia

Turkmenistan	Vanuatu
Ukraine	Viet Nam
United Arab Emirates	Yemen
United Republic of Tanzania	Zambia

19. The observer for Palestine to the United Nations also participated.

20. The following United Nations bodies, Secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented:

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

21. The following specialized agencies were represented:

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented.

22. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Commonwealth Secretariat, European Community, Helsinki Commission, League of Arab States, Nordic Council of Ministers, Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, World Conservation Union.

23. In addition, 47 non-governmental and private-sector organizations were represented by observers.

C. Officers

24. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, on 29 May 2000, the Council confirmed the nomination of Mr. Hossein-Moeini Meybodi (Islamic Republic of Iran) to serve as Rapporteur, to replace Mr. Hossein Fadaei (Islamic Republic of Iran), who was unable to complete his term.

25. The remaining officers elected by the Governing Council at its twentieth regular session continued to serve in their respective capacities at the sixth special session in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure. Accordingly, the officers of the Council at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session were as follows:

President:	Mr. László Miklós (Slovakia)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Jean P. Nsengiyumva (Burundi) Mr. Leandro Arellano (Mexico) Mr. Jan Pronk (Netherlands)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Hossein-Moeini Meybodi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

26. The closing meeting of the session, on 31 May 2000, was chaired by Mr. Kjell Larsson (Sweden).

D. Credentials of representatives

27. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of representatives attending the session. The Bureau found the credentials in order and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 5th plenary meeting of the session, on 31 May 2000.

E. Adoption of the agenda

28. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/GCSS.VI/1):

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda;

   (b) Organization of the work of the session.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Major environmental challenges in the new century.

5. Private sector and the environment - preparing for the twenty-first century.

6. Civil society - responsibility and role vis-à-vis the environment in the globalized world.

7. Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme.

8. Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21.

9. Malmö Declaration.

10. Provisional agenda of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum/ twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.

11. Adoption of the report.

12. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of the work of the session

29. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, the Council considered the organization of the work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated provisional agenda and organization of work and the provisional timetable of meetings suggested by the Executive Director (UNEP/GCSS.VI/1/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1).

30. The Council agreed that the following agenda items would be addressed in plenary meetings organized in the form of ministerial consultations: item 1 (Opening of the session), item 2 (Organization of the session), item 3 (Credentials of representatives), item 4 (Major environmental challenges in the new century), item 5 (Private sector and the environment – preparing for the twenty-first century), item 6 (Civil society – responsibility and role vis-à-vis the environment in the globalized world), item 9 (Malmö Declaration), item 11 (Adoption of the report) and item 12 (Closure of the session).

31. The Council also decided to set up a Committee of the Whole, under the chairmanship of Mr. Leandro Arellano, Vice-President of the Council, to address agenda item 7 (Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme), item 8 (Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21) and item 10 (Provisional agenda of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum/twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme).

32. The Council further decided to set up an open-ended working group, under the chairmanship of Mr. Kjell Larsson (Sweden), with a core membership of three representatives from each regional group, to consider agenda item 9 (Malmö Declaration) and report back to the plenary.

CHAPTER II

ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

A. Major environmental challenges in the new century

33. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 29 May 2000, the Forum took up its consideration of the above item of its agenda. Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, introduced Mr. Konrad von Moltke, the moderator of the meeting, together with the guest speakers who had been invited to make presentations: Mr. Mario Molina, Nobel laureate and Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Mr. M.S. Swaminathan, expert on the "green revolution" and holder of the UNESCO Chair of Ecotechnology.

34. In his opening remarks, Mr. von Moltke explained that the convening of the current meeting with its incomparable format - bringing together Government ministers, moderated by a scientist, to discuss emerging global issues - showed a willingness to experiment with new institutional forms. However, he believed that it was necessary for such a forum to be innovative, because of the nature of the problems involved.

35. In his presentation, Mr. Molina addressed issues of the science/policy interface, with particular reference to problems concerning the atmosphere, namely: ozone depletion, the greenhouse effect and atmospheric pollution. He drew attention to the difficulty of establishing with scientific certainty whether a perceived atmospheric phenomenon was a result of human activity or not, and noted the need to step outside science on certain occasions and make value judgements. In conclusion, he said that the success of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was due in good part to the Multilateral Fund, which entailed the transfer of a relatively small volume of resources to tackle a global problem. He believed that it was necessary to approach other emerging atmospheric problems in the same way.

36. Mr. Swaminathan addressed issues of food security and economic access to food and water, in the face of rapidly increasing population pressure. He noted the need for an approach involving integrated natural resources management; for local community conservation of traditional land races and folk varieties of plants; and for a new paradigm which gave local people in biosphere reserves a role in their management. Stressing the need to recognize and reward local conservation and knowledge of plants, he believed that the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) should harmonize their activities with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The gene revolution, the ecotech revolution and the information revolution were all emerging. But it was necessary to bring the latest findings to local rural people in an appropriate way: through learning by doing. In conclusion, he stressed that Environment Ministers needed to conserve and strengthen the ecological foundations of food security.

37. Following the presentations, 32 Ministers and heads of delegation made oral contributions. The participants welcomed the interactive debate and the innovative approach initiated by the Forum. The following issues were highlighted during the discussion by various Ministers and heads of delegation.

38. Climate change, loss of biodiversity, land degradation including desertification and deforestation, the water crisis – the most important environmental issue of the twenty-first century - and its implications for food security as well as increased environmental emergencies, unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, environmental mismanagement and the chemical threat were identified as major environmental challenges. Arsenic problems were considered to be a serious environmental problem in certain countries.

39. The negative impact of the globalized economy, the debt burden, poverty, unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, as well as the role of the global media in encouraging mass consumption, decreasing official development assistance and the unbalanced distribution of private investment in developing countries were identified among the root causes of environmental degradation.

40. The relationship between science and environment policy was highlighted, as well as the need to reduce scientific uncertainties, as environmental policies rested on a foundation of scientific research. It was pointed out that in recent decades a major change had occurred in the public perception of science and technology, which had shifted from being part of the problem to being part of the solution.

41. The potential of new technologies, and in particular environmentally sound technology and information technology, for responding to environmental challenges was stressed, as well as the need for the transfer of technology to developing countries.

42. There was a need to engage the private sector and promote a new corporate ethic of environmental sustainability, especially in relation to the gene revolution, whose benefits had yet to be made available to the poor to increase crop production.

43. The need to integrate environmental considerations in the mainstream of economic decision-making, the importance of bearing socio-economic considerations in mind in the implementation of environmental conventions, and the relation between trade and environment were discussed.

44. It was generally agreed that the problems and the solutions were known, and the resources and means to act were available. What was required was a new political will and a sense of urgency to take action. The implementation and enforcement of already agreed environmental legal instruments was considered a priority.

45. The need to review environmental institutions and architecture in the light of the environmental threats of the new century was discussed. While welcoming the progress achieved so far, it was agreed

that UNEP should be further strengthened and should play a leading role in promoting a holistic approach to environmental issues, inter alia within the United Nations system. UNEP's financial resources should be increased and their flow made more predictable.

46. It was also unanimously agreed that there was a need for a new North-South global partnership to address the environmental challenges of the new century. The idea of a world sustainable development strategy was suggested. It was also suggested that the declaration to be adopted by the Forum should contain an agenda for action, whose implementation could be monitored at future meetings.

B. Private sector and the environment – preparing for the twenty-first century

47. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 30 May 2000, the Forum took up its consideration of the above item of its agenda. Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, introduced Mr. Lin See Yan, Vice-President of the Bank of Malaysia and financial adviser to the Commission on Sustainable Development, as the moderator of the meeting. He also introduced the three guest speakers who had been invited to make presentations: Mr. Jürgen Dormann, Chairman of the Board of AVENTIS; Mr. Masashi Kaneko, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nikko Securities Company Ltd; and Mr. B. Brock, Chief Executive Officer of the Tetra Pak group of companies.

48. In his presentation, Mr. Dormann described the main features of the new economy (high-growth; high value added; based on research and development and intellectual property; information-technology-driven; service-oriented; and generating new knowledge and information), and contrasted it with the old economy (mass production and distribution of physical goods; slow and linear growth; low innovative potential; physical resource inputs; high environmental impact). With its transformation of education, the new economy helped alleviate the environmental problems that stemmed from poverty. Decentralization of job locations through modern telecommunications created new jobs in remote areas, also in developing countries. As an evolution of the old economy, but optimizing human and physical resources and reducing waste, the new economy held the key to sustainable development. But for innovation to be accepted, a link to the stakeholders was needed. To contribute to problem-solving it was necessary to protect intellectual property rights, and introduce new forms of public-private partnerships to use the full possibilities of the new economy.

49. Mr. Kaneko explained how socially responsible investment had been initiated and developed by the Nikko Eco Fund in Japan. Companies had been chosen for investment on the basis of a series of screening criteria to gauge their positive contribution to the environment and its conservation. Despite consumer unfamiliarity with the fund, it had attracted a surprising number of investors, particularly young women, and was now one of the company's leading trusts. Some 36 other companies had introduced similar funds, and the market for them now exceeded $2 billion. Further growth of such funds would be stimulated by reduced taxes on dividends for green investors, a single standard for environmental reporting and accounting, and compulsory publication of environmental reports. Such funds benefited investors (by providing investment tools for environmental protection), companies (where "green listing" of their stock was seen as adding value) and the environment (through enforcement of environmental legislation).

50. Mr. Brock outlined the history and role of the liquid packaging industry, stressing that, by analysing the life cycle of the product, good packaging could save resources in the chain of use, while fulfilling its protective role. He warned against the use of environmental tools and declarations in the marketing of products, particularly where there were no fixed and standard criteria. The rapid changes deriving from globalization were eroding the role of the nation State in combating environmental degradation. Efficient resource use meant that, in some areas, private companies were ahead of Governments in resource management. Industry's role lay in providing ecologically safe products in a responsible way, taking environmental considerations into account in their design and monitoring their performance with set indicators. Recycling policies were of little use if consumers were not educated to make use of them. Provision of such education and information was an important role for Governments, alongside the setting of standards and definitions and the design of appropriate economic instruments for use by industry. Future solutions depended not on whether all the stakeholders cooperated, but on how they cooperated.

51. Following the presentations, 32 Ministers and heads of delegation made oral contributions. During the discussion under this agenda item, the following issues were raised by various Ministers and heads of delegation.

52. The respective roles and characteristics of the "new" and "old" economies in relation to the environment, as well as the interrelationship between them, were discussed. The important role of small and medium-sized enterprises in many countries was also stressed.

53. The driving forces of the new economy included information and communication technology and their potential contribution to the objectives of environmental sustainability. Information and education were also of great importance in empowering consumers to make enlightened choices.

54. The emerging sectors of the new economy, including the biology and biotechnology revolution and the ethical and social components of sustainable development, were highlighted.

55. The need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the private sector and government in achieving sustainable development was discussed, together with the need to reconcile environmental objectives with corporate competition and profitability. It was also necessary to monitor carefully the interface between trade and environment, and create stronger institutions which could handle disputes that might arise and ensure that environmental agreements were on a par with trade agreements.

56. The responsibility of the private sector could be pinpointed using the polluter-pays principle and a requirement that they should make use of best available techniques. The development of liability systems was a valuable step. The importance of the precautionary approach was also stressed. Reference was also made to the need to avoid the transfer of polluting industries and their problems to areas, especially in developing countries, which lacked a capacity to handle them.

57. The need was raised for accepted corporate environmental standards and norms as well as the development of corporate environmental performance indicators. Systematic reporting by the private sector on its environmental performance was suggested, as was the conclusion of environmental codes of conduct for business.

58. Reference was made to the need for "greening" international financial markets, in particular in relation to environmental impact assessment. In that regard, support was expressed for UNEP's insurance initiative.

59. The role of fiscal and economic instruments in promoting corporate environmental responsibility, including the internalization of external costs, was discussed in the context of the promotion of eco-efficiency. The positive start made with the Kyoto Protocol should be replicated in other areas.

60. Concerning the transfer of environmental technology, there was a need for private/public partnership for achieving sustainable development, alleviating poverty and creating employment. The role of educated consumers in promoting a life cycle economy was emphasized. It was suggested that a new corporate ethic centred on the public interest should be promoted. Support was also expressed for the Global Compact initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General.

C. Civil society – responsibility and role vis-à-vis the environment in the globalized world

61. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 30 May 2000, the Forum took up its consideration of the above item of its agenda. Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, introduced Mr. Robert Lamb, Director of the Television Trust for the Environment, as the moderator of the meeting, together with the guest speakers who had been invited to make presentations: Mr. Charles Alexander, international editor of Time magazine; Ms. Yolanda Kakabadse, President of the World Conservation Union-IUCN; and Mr. Martin Khor, Director of the Third World Network.

62. In his opening remarks, Mr. Alexander highlighted the significance of civil society and of the media and free non-governmental organizations, in particular, in drawing attention to emerging problems and uncovering corruption and bad practices. However, in contrast to the coverage of local situations, global environmental problems received no prominence in many of the commercial media, particularly in the United States. Where Governments paid heed to corporate lobbyists, environmental legislation was often slow to be implemented. Corporations were changing, and the growing interest in green products meant they were now promoting the environmental message in partnership with the media. But Governments should give non-governmental organizations the same access they gave to big business interests. To ensure that proper environmental legislation was adopted, corporate campaign financing should be stopped. In the coming century, there was no alternative to a lifestyle based on sustainable development, and leaders had to be brought to the same conclusion.

63. In her opening remarks, Ms. Kakabadse noted that, while non-governmental organizations had hitherto been excluded from debate and decision-making, in a globalized world they were proliferating and were also increasingly being viewed as responsible partners. Interactions were now taking place at global, regional and national levels. The many types of groups in civil society spoke with a number of

different voices, and could not easily be categorized. They played an important bridging function. However, there were weaknesses, such as representational problems, and lack of institutional capacities to make proposals, to negotiate and to intervene. National and international organizations needed to set up a clear framework for dialogue, concertation, participation and follow-up with civil society groups, and in that context she wondered whether it might be valuable to introduce some kind of certification for such groups. In conclusion, she drew a distinction between globalized action and action for the global commons.

64. In his presentation, Mr. Khor highlighted key issues from a civil society perspective, calling, in particular, for preservation of the link between the environment and development; a change in the economic model adopted from the North; operationalizing of the Rio concept of common but differentiated responsibility; the reform of global economic institutions, which currently promoted the wrong kind of consumption patterns; a review of the intellectual property rights regime; avoidance of past mistakes in technology assessment and choice; and applying lessons from the Commission on Sustainable Development on how to give neglected sustainable ecological agriculture a chance. Describing a number of ways to improve the contributions by civil society, he stressed that relations should be strengthened with UNEP, as they had been with UNDP, at both headquarters and regional offices. Moreover, UNEP should network with non-governmental organizations much more than in the past.

65. Following the presentations, 30 Ministers and heads of delegation made oral contributions. During the discussion, the following issues were raised by various Ministers and heads of delegation.

66. It was noted that the current meeting marked the first time that such an interactive debate on the role and responsibility of civil society vis-à-vis the environment was being held at the level of ministers in an intergovernmental forum. Such a dialogue was welcomed.

67. The unique role of the community of non-governmental organizations, at local, regional, national and international levels, in putting environmental issues on the agenda and promoting social innovation was recognized. That role was increasing in importance, as evidenced by the growing number and diversity of the representatives of civil society. In addition, it was necessary to foster a sense of common purpose amongst all actors and the national and international community, and to better coordinate their work so as not to fragment their efforts.

68. Meeting the environmental challenges of the world and ensuring the sustainability of environmental policies required the cooperation and full participation of all the actors of society, including non-governmental organizations, local communities, indigenous peoples, local authorities, the scientific community, the media, the private sector and government. It was suggested that an alliance embracing civil society and the governmental sector at the national and regional levels would help to build confidence in decision-making processes and lead to realistic and implementable decisions. The role of civil society in the preparation and negotiation of international environmental treaties should be enhanced.

69. The role played by the community of non-governmental organizations in the establishment of UNEP and in promoting global environmental agreements, as well as in raising environmental public

awareness and in promoting transparency and non-corrupt practices in environmental decision-making, was also noted. Proposals were made for UNEP to strengthen its partnership with non-governmental organizations, including through a consultative mechanism, focal points and networking.

70. It was considered that the community of non-governmental organizations could provide a useful bridge between development and environment; action and policy; technology and spiritual matters; science and tradition; urban and rural areas; formal and informal sectors; grass roots and government.

71. The heterogeneity of civil society and the different natures and roles of its actors were considered to be both a challenge and an opportunity. Issues related to the representativeness, transparency and accountability of groups in civil society were raised, as well as the question of whether they had adequate administrative capacities to handle issues of policy-making satisfactorily. The role of non-governmental organizations in environmental impact assessment procedures and other environmental policy issues was also discussed. Concern was expressed at the persistence of armed conflicts in Africa, with their adverse impacts on the environment. Emphasis was placed on the important role of women in society, their vulnerability to adverse environmental impacts and the need for their involvement in policy-making and decision-making.

72. Regarding the process for the preparation of the 10-year review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the need was expressed to underscore the importance of including all relevant sectors in discussions and meetings related to the process at the local, national and regional levels, which would contribute to confidence-building in decision-making at the global level and to realizing decisions and their implementation. To this end, an alliance that included civil society and the government sector at the national and regional levels should be established.

73. Reference was made to the role of the media in relation to environmental education and public awareness. It was considered that there was a need to reconcile the nature and the driving forces of the commercial media with the need for adequate coverage of long-term environmental issues.

74. The need to ensure public access to environmental information was stressed. In that regard, it was proposed that the Executive Director be tasked with exploring the possibility of expanding the Aarhus Convention on a global scale.

CHAPTER III

MALMÖ DECLARATION

75. The draft Malmö Ministerial Declaration (UNEP/GCSS.VI/L.3) was introduced by the Chair of the open-ended working group, Mr. Kjell Larsson (Sweden), at the 5th plenary meeting, on 31 May 2000. At the same meeting, the declaration was adopted unchanged (for the text, see annex I below, decision SS.VI/1).

CHAPTER IV

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

76. The report of the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GCSS.VI/L.2) was introduced by the Committee's Rapporteur, Mr. Bernard O. K'Omudho (Kenya), at the 5th plenary meeting, on 31 May 2000. At the same meeting, the Council took note of the report (for the text, see annex II below).

77. The Committee's report contained three draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council. The draft decisions were adopted without change (for the text of the decisions, see annex I below).

CHAPTER V

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

78. The present report was adopted at the 5th plenary meeting of the session, on 31 May 2000, on the basis of the draft report as contained in document UNEP/GCSS.VI/L.1 and L.1/Add.1 and on the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with the finalization of the report in the light of the subsequent discussion at the session.

CHAPTER VI

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

79. At the 5th meeting of the session, on 31 May 2000, the Council heard a closing address from the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Ms. Birgitta Dahl. Ms. Dahl said that it was appropriate for the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum to be held in Sweden, which had hosted in 1972 the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which had in turn given birth to the United Nations Environment Programme.

80. The approach adopted by the current meeting had been the right one: identifying the challenges, ensuring that the private sector was on board and relying on those directly affected – civil society. However, one aspect was lacking: the popularly elected representatives in local, regional, national and transnational assemblies. While non-governmental organizations could act as important pressure groups, they often concentrated on one issue or one cluster of related issues, and their internal democratic structure might not always be ideal. Thus, it was also necessary to involve those who were politically responsible and answerable to voters. Today's citizens, noting that political decisions were made at a very high level, might feel that their scope for influencing those decisions was very limited or even non-existent. And if citizens felt that they had no say at all, how could they be expected to make the necessary changes in their lifestyles or consumption patterns? If politicians with popular mandates were made obvious parts of the decision-making process, they could go back to voters and act as interpreters or "ambassadors" for those decisions. One instrument that could – and should – be used to honour commitments from the Earth Summit was the democratically elected body in the form of national Parliaments, as well as regional and local political bodies. All the local Agenda 21s could serve as road maps for sustainable political behaviour on all levels of society.

81. In conclusion, she said that efforts to meet the challenges should be concentrated on the strategic areas of water, energy, transport and waste management and should target the poor in remote rural areas and megacity slums. Here lay the most acute risks of environmental and social disasters, but also the greatest potential for successful results at bearable costs.

82. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council closed.

Annex I

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION

Malmö, Sweden, 29-31 May 2000

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
SS.VI/1	Malmö Ministerial Declaration	31 May 2000	24
SS.VI/2	Activities of the United Nations Environment Programme	31 May 2000	29
SS.VI/3	Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the further Implementation of Agenda 21	31 May 2000	29
SS.VI/4	Provisional agenda of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum / twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme	31 May 2000	30

SS.VI/1. Malmö Ministerial Declaration

The Governing Council

Adopts the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, the text of which is annexed to the present decision.

5th meeting
31 May 2000

Annex

MALMÖ MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

We, Ministers of Environment and heads of delegation meeting in Malmö, Sweden from 29 to 31 May 2000, on the occasion of the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in pursuance of United Nations General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999 to enable the world's environment ministers to gather to review important and emerging environmental issues and to chart the course for the future:

Recalling the Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment 1/ and the Rio Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 2/ the Declaration of Barbados on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States 3/ as well as the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 4/

Deeply concerned that, despite the many successful and continuing efforts of the international community since the Stockholm Conference, and some progress having been achieved, the environment and the natural resource base that supports life on Earth continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate,

Reaffirming the importance of the speedy implementation of the political and legal commitments entered into by the international community, in particular at the Rio Conference,

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14), part one, chap. I.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), vol. I, annex I.

3/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/CONF.167/9), annex I.

4/ Governing Council decision 19/1, annex.

Convinced that urgent and renewed efforts are required to be undertaken by all countries in a spirit of international solidarity, and recognizing, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility as contained in the Rio Principles to manage the environment so as to promote sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations,

Conscious that the root causes of global environmental degradation are embedded in social and economic problems such as pervasive poverty, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, inequity in distribution of wealth, and the debt burden,

Also conscious that success in combating environmental degradation is dependent on the full participation of all actors in society, an aware and educated population, respect for ethical and spiritual values and cultural diversity, and protection of indigenous knowledge,

Aware that the 10-year review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be conducted in 2002 will provide a further opportunity for the international community to take action to implement its commitments and to strengthen international cooperation urgently required to address the challenges of sustainable development in the twenty-first century,

Convinced that the Millennium Summit of the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly provides a unique opportunity to address at the highest level the role of the United Nations in the field of sustainable development, and noting in this regard the proposals of the Secretary-General of the United Nations as contained in his report "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century", 5/ which will serve as the basis of discussion at the Summit,

Determined to contribute to this historic endeavour from an environmental perspective, and having requested the President of the Governing Council to bring the following matters to the attention of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Millennium Assembly,

Declare that:

Major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century

1. The year 2000 marks a defining moment in the efforts of the international community to ensure that the growing trends of environmental degradation that threaten the sustainability of the planet are arrested and reversed. Hence there is an urgent need for reinvigorated international cooperation based on common concerns and a spirit of international partnership and solidarity.

2. There is an alarming discrepancy between commitments and action. Goals and targets agreed by the international community in relation to sustainable development, such as the adoption of national sustainable development strategies and increased support to developing countries, must be implemented in a timely fashion. The mobilization of domestic and international resources, including development assistance, far beyond current levels is vital to the success of this endeavour.

5/ A/54/2000.

3. The evolving framework of international environmental law and the development of national law provide a sound basis for addressing the major environmental threats of the day. It must be underpinned by a more coherent and coordinated approach among international environmental instruments. We must also recognize the central importance of environmental compliance, enforcement and liability, and promote the observation of the precautionary approach as contained in the Rio Principles, 2/ and other important policy tools, as well as capacity-building.

4. The Global Environment Outlook 2000 of the United Nations Environment Programme provides a compelling assessment of the serious nature of the environmental threats faced by the international community. Special attention should be paid to unsustainable consumption patterns among the richer segments in all countries, particularly developed countries. Environmental stewardship is lagging behind economic and social development, and a rapidly growing population is placing increased pressures on the environment.

5. Environmental threats resulting from the accelerating trends of urbanization and the development of megacities, the tremendous risk of climate change, the freshwater crisis and its consequences for food security and the environment, the unsustainable exploitation and depletion of biological resources, drought and desertification, and uncontrolled deforestation, increasing environmental emergencies, the risk to human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals, and land-based sources of pollution, are all issues that need to be addressed.

6. Opportunities however exist that can redress this situation. Technological innovation and the emergence of new resource-efficient technologies, in which the private sector plays a major role, provide a source of great hope and increased opportunities to avoid the environmentally destructive practices of the past, including through clean technologies.

7. To confront the underlying causes of environmental degradation and poverty, we must integrate environmental considerations in the mainstream of decision-making. We must also intensify our efforts in developing preventive action and a concerted response, including national environmental governance and the international rule of law, awareness-raising and education, and harness the power of information technology to this end. All actors involved must work together in the interest of a sustainable future.

8. It is necessary that the environmental perspective is taken into account in both the design and the assessment of macro-economic policy-making, as well as practices of government and multilateral lending and credit institutions such as export credit agencies.

9. The trends of globalization in the world economy, with the attendant environmental risks and opportunities, require international institutions to adopt new approaches and to engage the major actors involved in globalization in new ways. We should encourage a balanced and integrated approach to trade and environment policies in pursuit of sustainable development, in accordance with the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session.

10. The role and responsibility of nations based on the Rio Principles, as well as the role and responsibility of the main actors including Governments, the private sector and civil society, must be emphasized in addressing the environmental challenges of the twenty-first century. Governments are the primary agents in this process, whose actions are vital in implementing United Nations environment-related instruments since Stockholm, institutional capacity-building and strengthened international cooperation.

The private sector and the environment

11. The private sector has emerged as a global actor that has a significant impact on environmental trends through its investment and technology decisions. In this regard, Governments have a crucial role in creating an enabling environment. The institutional and regulatory capacities of Governments to interact with the private sector should be enhanced. A greater commitment by the private sector should be pursued to engender a new culture of environmental accountability through the application of the polluter-pays principle, environmental performance indicators and reporting, and the establishment of a precautionary approach in investment and technology decisions. This approach must be linked to the development of cleaner and more resource-efficient technologies for a life cycle economy and efforts to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

12. The potential of the new economy to contribute to sustainable development should be further pursued, particularly in the areas of information technology, biology and biotechnology. The ethical and social implications must be carefully considered. There must be recognition of the public interest in knowledge related to biodiversity, including the interest of indigenous and local communities. A corporate ethic guided by public interest should be promoted.

13. The Global Compact established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the private sector provides an excellent vehicle for the development of a constructive engagement with the private sector. UNEP should continue to enhance its engagement and collaboration with the private sector and consider the relation between foreign direct investment and the environment, with a view to minimizing negative environmental implications.

Civil society and the environment

14. Civil society plays a critically important role in addressing environmental issues. The role, capabilities and involvement of civil society organizations has seen a substantial increase over recent years, which highlights the need for national Governments and for UNEP and international organizations to enhance the engagement of these organizations in their work on environmental matters.

15. Civil society has found new and effective modes of expression of popular sentiments and concerns. It provides a powerful agent for promoting shared environmental purpose and values. Civil society plays an important role in bringing emerging environmental issues to the attention of policy makers, raising public awareness, promoting innovative ideas and approaches, and promoting transparency as well as non-corrupt activities in environmental decision-making.

16. The role of civil society at all levels should be strengthened through freedom of access to environmental information to all, broad participation in environmental decision-making, as well as access to justice on environmental issues. Governments should promote conditions to facilitate the ability of all parts of society to have a voice and to play an active role in creating a sustainable future.

17. Science provides the basis for environmental decision-making. There is a need for intensified research, fuller engagement of the scientific community and increased scientific cooperation on emerging environmental issues, as well as improved avenues for communication between the scientific community, decision makers and other stakeholders.

18. We must pay special attention to threats to cultural diversity and traditional knowledge, in particular of indigenous and local communities, which may be posed by globalization. In this context we welcome the proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly of the year 2001 as the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations.

19. Greater emphasis must be given to the gender perspective in decision-making concerning the management of the environment and natural resources.

20. There is a need for independent and objective media at all levels in enhancing awareness and developing shared environmental values in global society. The media can serve the cause of sustainable development by identifying emerging issues, awareness-raising and promoting appropriate action.

The 2002 review of UNCED

21. The 2002 review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) should be undertaken by an international conference at the summit level. The objective should not be to renegotiate Agenda 21, which remains valid, but to inject a new spirit of cooperation and urgency based on agreed actions in the common quest for sustainable development. In this regard, the ratification of all environmental conventions and protocols, in particular those related to climate, desertification, biosafety and chemicals, should be urgently pursued by Governments.

22. Governments and UNEP have to play a major role in the preparation for the 2002 review of UNCED at the regional and global levels and ensure that the environmental dimension of sustainable development is fully considered on the basis of a broad assessment of the state of the global environment. The preparations for the conference should be accelerated.

23. The 2002 conference should aim at addressing the major challenges to sustainable development, and in particular the pervasive effects of the burden of poverty on a large proportion of the Earth's inhabitants, counterposed against excessive and wasteful consumption and inefficient resource use that perpetuate the vicious circle of environmental degradation and increasing poverty.

24. The 2002 conference should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environmental governance based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world. UNEP's role in this regard should be strengthened and its financial base broadened and made more predictable.

Conclusion

25. At the dawn of this new century, we have at our disposal the human and material resources to achieve sustainable development, not as an abstract concept but as a concrete reality. The unprecedented developments in production and information technologies, the emergence of a younger generation with a clear sense of optimism, solidarity and values, women increasingly aware and with an enhanced and active role in society - all point to the emergence of a new consciousness. We can decrease poverty by half by 2015 without degrading the environment, we can ensure environmental security through early warning, we can better integrate environmental considerations in economic policy, we can better coordinate legal instruments and we can realize a vision of a world without slums. We commit ourselves to realizing this common vision.

SS.VI/2. Activities of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme presented by the Executive Director 6/ and the valuable comments made thereon;

2. Commends the Executive Director for presenting the report in a consolidated manner focusing on the five agreed priorities;

3. Requests the Executive Director to take into account comments made in the further elaboration of the water policy and strategy and further requests him to take the necessary measures accordingly for its implementation and report on the progress made to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session;

4. Welcomes the information provided in the Executive Director's report on budgetary and financial matters, 7/ and requests that future activity reports to the Governing Council and to the Committee of Permanent Representatives should present a clear correlation between relevant decisions of the Governing Council and other legislative bodies, activities and resources set aside, actual budget expenditure, and qualitative evaluation of results achieved.

6/ UNEP/GCSS.VI/6 and Add.1/Rev.1.

7/ UNEP/GCSS.VI/6, annex I.

5th meeting
31 May 2000

SS.VI/3. Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

The Governing Council

1. Requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives to review, on its behalf, the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

2. Calls upon the Executive Director, to that end, to prepare a report for consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to be distributed to all Governments for their information and comments, and to ensure the active contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the preparatory process for the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a final version of the above-mentioned report through the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

4. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on this matter to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

5th meeting
31 May 2000

SS.VI/4. Provisional agenda of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum /twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council

1. Decides to include an item entitled "Outcome of the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum" on the provisional agenda of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council; 8/

8/ UNEP/GC.20/48, p. 113.

2. Requests the Bureau of the Governing Council, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and with the support of the Executive Director, to decide on the organizational aspects for the ministerial-level consultations at the second Global Ministerial Environment Forum/twenty-first session of the Governing Council, and to decide on the themes for those consultations.

5th meeting
31 May 2000

Annex II

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Rapporteur: Mr. Bernard O. K'Omudho (Kenya)

INTRODUCTION

1. In pursuance of the decision of the Governing Council on the organization of the work of the session, adopted at the first meeting of the session on 29 May 2000, the Committee of the Whole held three meetings under the chairmanship of Mr. Leandro Arellano (Mexico), Vice-President of the Council, on 29 and 30 May 2000, to consider agenda item 7 (Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme), item 8 (Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21) and item 10 (Provisional agenda of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum/twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme), as allocated to it by the Council.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 29 May 2000, the Committee of the Whole appointed Mr. Bernard O. K'Omudho (Kenya) as the Rapporteur for the session.

3. During the deliberations in the Committee of the Whole, the secretariat introduced each item considered, after which representatives expressed their views thereon.

Item 7. Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme

4. In considering agenda item 7, the Committee had before it the following documentation: UNEP/GCSS.VI/6, containing substantial reporting and information material, and UNEP/GCSS.VI/6/Add.1/Rev.1 on the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme. Both documents covered the period since the twentieth session of the Governing Council, with the Executive Director's report focusing on the priority areas defined by the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted at the nineteenth session of the Governing Council held in 1997, and the five areas of concentration approved at the fifth special session of the Governing Council in 1998. The Committee decided to consider the reporting on UNEP activities and the UNEP water policy and strategy as two separate issues. It was also agreed, however, that those representatives who wished to express their views on both issues at the same time could do so.

(a) Activities of the United Nations Environment Programme

5. The item was taken up by the Committee at its 1st meeting, on 29 May 2000, and was introduced by the secretariat.

6. During the general discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Canada, China, Cuba, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malawi, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United States of America, Venezuela and Zambia. Some of the representatives also spoke on item 7 (b).

7. The secretariat responded to questions raised and comments made by representatives on the item.

(b) Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

8. The item was taken up by the Committee at its 1st meeting and introduced by the secretariat, which described the main components of the water policy and strategy as assessment, management and coordination of actions. All three components stressed the cross-sectoral nature of water issues, and one of the goals of the new policy and strategy would be to identify and promote the tools that would address the critical water issues facing humanity and the environment.

9. During the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Australia, Canada, China, India, Jordan, Norway, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and the United States of America. Statements were also made by the representatives of WMO and UNESCO.

10. The secretariat responded to the questions raised and remarks made by representatives on the item.

11. At the end of its deliberations on both issues the Committee considered and approved a draft decision summarizing the discussions held on these issues, for transmission to the plenary (for the text of the decision adopted, see annex I above, decision SS.VI/2).

12. With respect to paragraph 4 of the draft decision, the Deputy Executive Director reassured the Committee that, while the secretariat would do its utmost to ensure the requested reporting, there were practical difficulties involved in changing the existing financial reporting system. The Executive Director would therefore inform the Council on the matter through the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Item 8. Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

13. The item was taken up by the Committee at its 2nd meeting, on 30 May 2000, and was introduced by the secretariat. The Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York also addressed this item and explained the process and expectations of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

14. In its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it document UNEP/GCSS.VI/7, which contained a proposed process of preparations for the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

15. During the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Barbados, Canada, China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, the United States of America and Venezuela.

16. The secretariat responded to the questions raised and comments made by representatives on the item.

17. At the end of its deliberations on the item, the Committee considered and approved a draft decision summarizing the discussions held on the item, for transmission to plenary (for the text of the decision adopted, see annex I above, decision SS.VI/3).

Item 10. Provisional agenda of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum/ twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

18. The item was taken up by the Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 30 May 2000, and was introduced by the secretariat.

19. During the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Canada, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union) and Sweden. The Committee recalled that at its twentieth session, the Council had approved a provisional agenda for its twenty-first session (UNEP/GC.20/48, p. 113).

20. The Committee approved a draft decision for transmission to the plenary (for the text of the decision adopted, see annex I above, decision SS.VI/4).

21. At its 3rd meeting, the Committee of the Whole adopted the present report and the decisions contained therein, as orally amended, by consensus.

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM/SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Symbol	Title
UNEP/GCSS.VI/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/GCSS.VI/1/Add.1 and Corr.1	Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work
UNEP/GCSS.VI/6	Report of the Executive Director on activities of the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GCSS.VI/6/Add.1/Rev.1	Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GCSS.VI/7	Proposed process of preparation for the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP/GCSS.VI/8	Discussion papers presented by the Executive Director

Note. No documents were issued under the symbols UNEP/GCSS.VI/2-5.